



Campaign and Political Finance Disclosure Manual

October 2020

This Manual was created for reference purposes only and should not be used as a substitute for legal advice and actual knowledge of the campaign finance laws and regulations

Based on and Adopted From
Colorado Campaign and Political Finance Manual

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Using the Campaign and Political Finance Disclosure Manual

The City of Centennial, while a home rule city, has specifically adopted, by Charter and by Ordinance (2011-O-08), the Fair Campaign Practices Act as set forth in the Colorado Constitution and state statute. This Manual provides guidelines and helpful tips for proper compliance with the following laws governing campaign finance and required disclosures **as relevant to a City of Centennial election only**: (1) Article XXVIII (also known as Amendment 27) of the Colorado Constitution (may be referred to in this Manual simply as the “Constitution”), (2) Title 1 Article 45 of the Colorado Revised Statutes (may be referred to in this Manual simply as “C.R.S.”), (3) the Rules Concerning Campaign and Political Finance law as adopted by the Secretary of State’s Office (may be referred to in this Manual simply as “Rules”), (4) Section 5.5 of the City of Centennial Home Rule Charter, and (5) Article 6 of Chapter 2 of the Centennial Municipal Code. These laws and rules are provided as part of the Centennial candidate packet. As the City has, by ordinance, specifically adopted the state statutes and constitutional provisions on the issues of campaign finance and disclosure (with exceptions only to add an additional filing date and to provide for local enforcement and sanctions as a result of the Secretary of State’s Office advisory opinion placing such obligation on home rule jurisdictions), this Manual follows the interpretations of the Constitution, the C.R.S., and the Rules as promulgated by the Colorado Secretary of State.

NOTICE: If you are considering running for office, you, your agent, fundraisers, and campaign manager should become familiar with the requirements of the Constitution, the C.R.S., the Rules and the City’s ordinances. You must read Article XXVIII of the Colorado Constitution, C.R.S. Title 1, Article 45 and the accompanying Rules Concerning Campaign and Political Finance, and Article 6 of Chapter 2 of the Centennial Municipal Code to understand Colorado Campaign and Political Finance procedures and requirements. The information included in this Manual is based on the Colorado Campaign and Political Finance Manual published by the Colorado Secretary of State as revised in April 2020. Because applicable statutes and rules are subject to change and interpretation, you are advised that this Manual may not accurately reflect the current state of the law governing campaign and political finance disclosure in Colorado. *This Manual merely reflects the City’s interpretation of those laws in effect at the time that it was issued. THEREFORE, THIS MANUAL SHALL NOT BE BINDING UPON THE CITY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.*

Furthermore, campaign and political finance law may undergo changes during the election cycle. The City Clerk may, but is not obligated to, issue updates or addenda to this Manual, and all parties wishing to receive any such documents should ensure that their contact information on file with the Clerk is current and accurate.

Please be advised that failure to comply with the requirements of Colorado law could subject you or your group to enforcement proceedings.

Contacting the City Clerk's Office with Campaign Finance Questions

The City Clerk's Office cannot provide legal advice on interpretations of the Campaign Finance laws as they apply to City of Centennial elections but can answer certain questions concerning compliance and logistics. Please contact the City Clerk, Barbara Setterlind, at:

Phone: (303) 754-3324
Email: bsetterlind@centennialco.gov
Address: 13133 East Arapahoe Road
Centennial, CO 80112

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Using the Campaign and Political Finance Disclosure Manual	2
Contacting the City Clerk’s Office	3
CANDIDATES AND CANDIDATE COMMITTEES.....	8
BECOMING A CANDIDATE.....	8
Documents and Where to File	8
CANDIDATES WITHOUT COMMITTEES (STANDALONE CANDIDATES)	8
CANDIDATE COMMITTEES	8
Registering your Committee	8
Registered Agents	9
Amending your Committee Registration	9
Terminating your Committee.....	9
Relevant Laws and Rules for Candidate Committees	10
COORDINATION	10
Relevant Laws and Rules for Coordination	10
Coordination	10
1-45-103.7(11)(a), C.R.S.; Rule 21	10
CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES.....	10
Contributions for Candidates and Candidate Committees	11
Contribution Amount Thresholds Affecting Reporting Detail Requirements.....	11
• Prohibited Contributions	12
• Loans.....	13
Legal Provisions Related to Contributions	13
Expenditures by Candidates and Candidate Committees.....	13
Reimbursements	14
Bank Accounts.....	14
Legal Provisions Related to Expenditures	14
Filing Calendars: Dates and Deadlines	14
Amended Reports	15
After the Election	15
Unexpended Campaign Contributions.....	15

Standalone Candidates	16
Relevant Laws and Rules	16
PART TWO: NONCANDIDATE COMMITTEES	17
REGISTERING YOUR COMMITTEE	17
TYPES OF COMMITTEES.....	17
POLITICAL COMMITTEES	17
• Reporting requirements.....	17
• Terminating a Political Committee	18
• Legal Provisions Applicable to Political Committees	18
SMALL DONOR COMMITTEES (SDCs)	19
• Reporting requirements.....	19
• Terminating a small donor committee	19
POLITICAL PARTIES	20
ISSUE COMMITTEES	20
• Registration and Reporting Requirements	20
• Major Contribution Report	21
• Ballot Issues and Ballot Questions.....	21
• Legal Provisions Applicable to Issue Committees:	21
SMALL SCALE ISSUE COMMITTEES.....	22
Definitions.....	22
1-45-103 (16.3), C.R.S.	22
Registration and amendments.....	23
1-45-108(1.5), C.R.S.; Rule 4.4	23
Disclosure requirements.....	23
1-45-108(1.5), C.R.S.; Rule 4.4	23
Ballot issues and questions	23
1-1-104(2.3), 1-1-104(2.7), C.R.S.....	23
RECALL COMMITTEES	23
• Legal Provisions Applicable to Recall Committees:	23
INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE COMMITTEES	23
• Legal Provisions Applicable to Independent Expenditure Committees:	23
REGISTERED AGENTS.....	23
• Legal Provisions Applicable to Registered Agents:	24
HOW TO REGISTER	24

CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES.....	24
Contributions and Donations to Committees.....	25
Expenditures by Committees.....	25
Bank Accounts.....	25
Legal Provisions Related to Contributions and Expenditures:.....	26
PART THREE: INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES, ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATIONS, AND	
FUNDRAISING	27
INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES AND INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE COMMITTEES.....	27
DISCLAIMER STATEMENTS	27
Independent Expenditures.....	27
Ballot Issue/Question Communications.....	28
Relevant Legal Provisions Related to Independent Expenditures:	28
Electioneering Communications	28
Relevant Legal Provisions Related to Electioneering Communications:.....	29
FUNDRAISING	30
Fishbowls and Pass the Hat Events	30
Meet and Greet Events	30
Cost of Admission to Fundraising Events.....	30
Silent Auctions	30
Non-monetary (in-kind) Contributions of Goods or Services	31
Contributions from a Couple or Joint Account Holders.....	31
Online Contributions: PayPal and other Payment Intermediary Services	31
Candidate Committees Sharing Expenses.....	31
PART FOUR: LATE FILINGS	32
LATE FILING PENALTIES.....	32
WAIVERS AND WAIVER REQUESTS.....	32
Legal provisions for penalties:	32
PART FIVE: THIRD PARTY COMPLAINTS OF VIOLATIONS	33
COMPLAINTS.....	33
Initial Review.....	33
Curing violations	34
Hearings	34

Legal Provisions for Complaints:	34
PENALTIES.....	34
GUIDELINES FOR CONSIDERING WAIVER REQUESTS.....	36
GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS	37

PART ONE: CANDIDATES AND CANDIDATE COMMITTEES

BECOMING A CANDIDATE

You become a candidate when you publicly announce your intent to run for office *and thereafter* receive a contribution or make expenditures in support of your candidacy for City elective office. The City Clerk's Office recommends that, regardless of when you accept a contribution, if any, or make expenditure, you file a candidate affidavit with the City Clerk's office within 10 days of the day that you publicly announce your intent to run for office.

Public announcement includes, but is not limited to, making a statement a reasonable person would expect to become public signifying an interest in a public office by means of a speech, advertisement, or other communication reported to or appearing in public media or any place that is accessible to the public. This also includes a stated intention to explore the possibility of seeking an office and/or the registration of a Candidate Committee.

Documents and Where to File

Once you become a candidate for City elective office, you must file a *candidate affidavit* with the City Clerk's office within 10 days. The affidavit must be notarized and mailed or hand-delivered in hard copy to the City Clerk's office. The affidavit is an attestation that the candidate has familiarized themselves with campaign finance laws and regulations, so be sure to read the laws before submitting the affidavit.

CANDIDATES WITHOUT COMMITTEES (STANDALONE CANDIDATES)

Standalone candidates are those candidates who do not have a Candidate Committee. You do not need a Candidate Committee if you *will not* seek or accept contributions during your

candidacy or if you will only be spending your own money. You must have a committee if you will accept money from any other person/entity.

Standalone candidates must report all expenditures to the City Clerk.

Standalone candidates must itemize all expenditures of \$20 or more (either one-time expenditures or expenditures greater than \$20 in aggregate during a reporting period). Itemized expenditures must list the name and address of the contributor and the purpose of the expense.

The law does not require standalone candidate who do not make expenditures to file disclosure reports, but candidates may file a zero report if they choose.

Standalone candidates are no longer considered candidates upon losing the election to office. These individuals do not need to take affirmative action to end their candidacy and need not file ongoing disclosure reports. Candidates wishing to exit the race prior to the election must submit a written withdrawal and must file disclosure reports for any reporting periods in which they made expenditures until submitting such a withdrawal or until the election occurs.

CANDIDATE COMMITTEES

A Candidate Committee accepts contributions or makes expenditures under the authority of the candidate. A Candidate committee includes the candidate. A candidate may have *only one* active Candidate Committee. It is not necessary for the Committee to have other members besides the candidate.

Registering your Committee

Under the Colorado Constitution, a person becomes a candidate when he or she:

- publicly announces an intent to run for office and

- receives a contribution or makes an expenditure in support of their candidacy.

The City Clerk recommends registering a Candidate Committee with the City Clerk *before* accepting contributions or making expenditures.

You will need a committee name (usually including the name of the candidate, such as “Jane Doe for District 1 Councilmember”), physical, mailing and e-mail addresses, a description of your committee’s purpose, the details of the office sought, and financial information including the name of the bank where the committee has or will have an account.

Registered Agents

You also need to designate a registered agent who acts as the committee’s representative. The candidate may be the registered agent or may designate another person to serve as registered agent. The registered agent must be reported on the committee registration form, must be a natural person, and is responsible for maintaining all committee records and filing all reports on time. The registered agent must sign the committee’s registration form and all disclosure reports. For candidate committees, the candidate must also sign all registration forms and reports filed.

The registered agent is like a treasurer — he or she keeps track of all contributions and expenditures and can file the committee’s reports. The registered agent has important duties, and access to all the committee’s financial information. The City Clerk communicates primarily with the registered agent via telephone or email. .

In addition to the candidate or the registered agent, the committee may also assign the timely filing of Contribution and Expenditure reports to a designated filing agent.

The registered agent can be replaced after a formal resignation, and the committee must file

an amended committee registration within ten (10) calendar days. To resign, a registered agent must file a resignation letter with the City Clerk via mail or hand-delivered in hard copy to the City Clerk’s office. For a candidate committee, upon resignation of the registered agent the candidate becomes the registered agent until a new agent is assigned. A new registered agent must assume the role before the City’s records will reflect a resignation. Please see Rule 9.2 for more information.

Amending your Committee Registration

Committees must report any changes to their committee registration information—including address, phone, email, registered agent, or purpose—*within ten calendar days of the change*. Committees can file amendments by completing and submitting a paper Committee Registration Amendment form to the City Clerk.

Terminating your Committee

Candidates remain candidates for office as long as they have an open Candidate Committee and must file all assigned disclosure reports while the committee is open. Candidates may terminate their committee by filing a termination report that reflects a zero balance with the City Clerk.

Subject to maximums, the City Clerk will impose penalties of \$25 per day, including weekends and holidays, for reports filed after the due date, *even if your committee has no activity during the reporting period*. See Parts Four and Five on Penalties.

A committee which has a loan or outstanding debt, including penalties, if any, cannot be terminated until the loan or debt has been paid and the committee has reached a zero balance.

Inactive candidates are candidates that do not seek access to the ballot in an upcoming election but want to maintain an active candidate committee. Term limited officeholders who choose to maintain an active

candidate committee and solicit contributions must indicate to the appropriate filing officer their intention to be designated as an inactive candidate. This can be done by filing a candidate affidavit but also indicating to the appropriate officer that the candidate is term limited and therefore not seeking access to the ballot in an upcoming election. If, at any time, an inactive candidate decides to run for a different office, the candidate must file a candidate affidavit for the office sought and rollover committee funds to a new candidate committee. Inactive Candidate Committees *must* terminate after nine years from the date the former officeholder's term expired or the date of the election at which the candidate was an unsuccessful candidate for office.

Relevant Laws and Rules for Candidate Committees

Definitions	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 2
Registration and Amendments	1-45-108(3), C.R.S.; SOS Rules 2.2, 8.1, and 12.1
Disclosure Requirements	1-45-108, 1-45-109, 1-45-110, 24-6-202, C.R.S.; SOS Rule 10
Deposits and Records	Art. XXVIII Sec. 3(9); SOS Rule 10
Filing Dates	Home Rule Charter Section 5.5. See also official election calendar.
Unexpended Campaign Funds	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 2(15); 1-45-106, C.R.S.; Rule 2.2.4
Terminating	SOS Rules 2.2.5 and 12.3
Inactive Candidate Committees	1-45-106 (1)(a)(III), C.R.S.

COORDINATION

Once a person becomes a candidate, they are prohibited from coordinating with independent expenditure committees. Furthermore if, during the six month period before becoming a candidate for public office, a person actively solicits funds for an

independent expenditure committee with the intent of benefiting their future candidacy, any expenditures made by that independent expenditure committee in that candidate's race are presumed to be coordinated with that candidate and therefore constitute a contribution to the candidate from the independent expenditure committee and an expenditure by the candidate committee. In addition, the Independent Committee is prohibited from making expenditures in that candidate's race. A person actively solicits funds if they:

- Help to organize, direct, or plan a fundraising event for an independent expenditure committee.
- Encourage or suggest a donation to the independent expenditure committee.
- Know or reasonably should have known that the independent expenditure committee will support their future candidacy.

Relevant Laws and Rules for Coordination

Coordination	1-45-103.7(11)(a), C.R.S.; Rule 21
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CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES

A candidate committee must report all contributions received and all expenditures made to the City Clerk on forms supplied by and filed with the City Clerk's office. Standalone candidates must report all expenditures.

Filing dates for City elections differ from the filing dates for state or county elections as the City's Home Rule Charter (Section 5.5) contains an additional filing deadline 42 days before an election. This date and all other filing dates and reporting periods for every election will be made available in a calendar to be supplied as part of the candidate packet by the City Clerk's Office and shall be posted on the City's web site at www.centennialco.gov/City-Clerk/Elections-information.aspx

A filing deadline is the date upon which a filing must be *actually received* by the City Clerk's Office. All reports must be received by 5:00

p.m. of the filing deadline in order to be considered timely. The date of a postmark is not relevant in determining if a filing date has been met.

Keep your telephone number, address and e-mail address current with the City Clerk's Office because reminders about filings, changes to campaign finance laws and regulations, and other important information may be sent via telephone, U.S. mail, or e-mail.

Contributions for Candidates and Candidate Committees

Candidates in the City are not subject to contribution limits. However, candidates must report all contributions in the amount and manner specified in this section and the amount of a contribution affects the detail level required for reporting contributions.

Remember that it is recommended that you register a committee prior to accepting contributions. Candidate committees must report all contributions they receive to the City Clerk on forms supplied by and filed with the City Clerk's office.

Contribution Amount Thresholds Affecting Reporting Detail Requirements

Depending on the contribution amount, Colorado law requires committees to report certain additional information as follows:

Committees must disclose contributions of less than \$20 on their report although itemization is not required.

Committees must report and itemize contributions of \$20 or more (either one-time contributions or contributions greater than \$20 in aggregate during a reporting period), including non-monetary (in-kind) contributions. Itemization means listing each contribution individually with the name and address of the contributor.

Committees receiving contributions of \$100 or

more from natural persons, including non-monetary contributions, must also include the occupation and employer of the contributor on the report. This requirement applies to any one-time contribution and not to aggregate contributions of \$100.00 or more. (Rule 10.2.3(a)) If a committee does not report occupation and employer information for a contribution of \$100 or more, and the committee is unable to gather the information within 30 days of receipt of the contribution, the committee must return the contribution to the contributor no later than the 31st day after receipt. (Rule 10.2.3(b)) and the committee should file an amended report with the City Clerk. Whenever a committee becomes aware of an error in past reporting, the committee must amend the report as soon as possible by filing an Amended Report of Contributions and Expenditures.

Contributors may make contributions using cash, crypto currencies, check, money order, credit card, EFT, etc.; but cash or coin or crypto currency contributions cannot exceed \$100.

Non-monetary donations of goods, equipment, supplies or services constitute contributions, and require disclosure. Non-monetary contributions count against these contribution amount thresholds affecting reporting detail requirements.

Contributions include anything of value given directly or indirectly to a candidate "for the purpose of promoting the candidate's nomination, retention, recall, or election."

Contributions from natural persons made by check are considered to be from the person who signed the check.

The date the committee deposits the check into its account is the date of receipt. Please see page 31 of this manual for information on contributions from joint account holders.

If a committee receives a donation by check at least five business days before the end of a reporting period, the committee must deposit

the check or return to the contributor before that reporting period closes.

A cash contribution or donation is accepted the date the cash is in the committee's possession.

A contribution or donation made by credit card, PayPal, or other payment intermediary service is accepted on the date the contributor or donor authorizes the payment.

A non-monetary or in-kind contribution or donation is accepted on the date the committee takes possession of the item or has the right to possess or use the item. Please see page 31 of this Manual for information on contributions from joint account holders.

Contributions of \$1,000 or more received within 30 days before a City election must be reported to the City Clerk within 24 hours of receipt as a Major Contribution, separate from regular reports. This includes loans from the candidate to his/her own committee. Candidates not on the ballot are exempt from this reporting requirement in off-election years.

Volunteer services by an individual do not constitute contributions. This includes volunteers who donate time to the campaign at no charge. Keep in mind that donated services that are not time-based may be subject to disclosure and affect contribution amount thresholds affecting reporting requirements. See Rule 1.4.1. As an example, donated printing services or catering services may be in-kind donations of services that are considered contributions subject to reporting.

No person shall act as a conduit for a contribution to a Candidate Committee, and the law prohibits anonymous contributions of \$20 or more. Anonymous contributions are contributions where the identity of the contributor or other required reporting information is unknown. (Rule 10.7.2)

- **Prohibited Contributions**
Candidates and Candidate Committees may not accept contributions from:

- Corporations (profit or non-profit)
- Labor organizations
- Foreign citizens, foreign corporations, or foreign governments
- Another candidate committee (local, state, or federal)
- Issue committees and small scale issue committees
- Independent expenditure committees
- Anonymous contributions of \$20 or more
- Limited Liability Companies (LLCs), *if any of the LLC members are a:*
 - Corporation or labor organization; or
 - Natural person who is not a U.S. Citizen; or
 - Foreign government; and
 - Professional or volunteer lobbyists, or a principal of a lobbyist prohibited from contributing by 1-45-105.5(1), C.R.S. Note: See definition of LLC in 1-45-103.7(8), C.R.S.
 - Contributions to candidates are prohibited from LLCs whom the I.R.S. treats as corporations and from LLCs with publicly traded shares.

Colorado law prohibits a person from making a contribution with the expectation that the recipient will reimburse all or a part of the contribution.

Colorado law permits LLC contributions subject to the following requirements:

- The LLC must provide the candidate or committee with a written statement affirming the

permissibility of the contribution via a form provided by the City Clerk.

- Affirmation must include:
 - Name & address of all LLC members
 - Information on how to attribute the contribution among the LLC members. The attributed amount must reflect the capital the member has invested in the company at the time the contribution is made (percentage of ownership).
 - For contributions of \$100 or more attributed to an LLC member, occupation and employer information for that member must also be provided.
- The committee must:
 - Retain affirmation statement for 1 year after the end of the election cycle.
 - Itemize LLC contributions regardless of amount.
 - List both the individual LLC member's name as the contributor as well as the name of the LLC.

- Loans

Candidates and candidate committees may receive loans from financial institutions, "if the loan bears the usual and customary interest rate."

Candidates may not receive loans from other individuals or entities.

Loans from a financial institution do not affect contribution amount thresholds that affect reporting detail requirements.

The candidate must report the loan and show loan payments. Loans from a financial institution cannot be forgiven.

Candidates may forgive loans made by

the candidate to his or her own committee. The amount of unpaid debt forgiven by the candidate remains a contribution and is not considered a returned contribution.

Legal Provisions Related to Contributions

Definitions	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 2 (5)
Registration Required	1-45-108(3), C.R.S.
Date of Contribution	SOS Rule 10.4
Conduits Prohibited	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 3(7)
Reimbursement Prohibited	Art. XXVIII Sec. 3(11)
Major Contributors	1-45-108(2.5), C.R.S.
LLCs	1-45-103.7, C.R.S.
Loans	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 3(8); SOS Rule 10.13

Expenditures by Candidates and Candidate Committees

Simply stated, expenditures refer to the money an individual or committee spends. Money spent on anything for the purpose of expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate is considered an expenditure.

An expenditure occurs when it is made, when funds are obligated, or when a contract is established, whichever occurs soonest.

Expenditures that are controlled by or coordinated with a candidate or a candidate's agent are deemed to be both contributions by the maker of the expenditures, and expenditures by the Candidate Committee.

Mileage should be reported as an expenditure using the Internal Revenue Service (I.R.S.) rate.

No committee or candidate may spend more

than \$100 in cash or coin on any single expenditure.

Committees must itemize all expenditures of \$20 or more (either one-time expenditures or expenditures greater than \$20 in aggregate during a reporting period). Itemized expenditures must list the name and address of the payee and the purpose of the expense.

Third-party expenditures are reported as nonmonetary (in-kind) contributions, as are some coordinated expenditures. This does not include reimbursements for expenditures made on behalf of the committee.

Reimbursements

Committees should report reimbursements by the campaign to candidates, staff, and volunteers as expenditures.

Candidate Committees may reimburse the candidate for expenditures the candidate made on behalf of the committee at any time. The disclosure report should list this as a reimbursement and should detail what the original expenditure was for. (For example, if the payee is the candidate's bank or the candidate because it is a reimbursement for credit card or out-of-pocket expenses, the purpose should include what the candidate purchased and from whom. Simply stating that the purpose is "credit card payment" or "reimbursement" is insufficient.)

Reimbursements can take place at any time during the election cycle. Committees must list reimbursements to service providers that initially paid for goods or services in addition to listing the person receiving the reimbursement.

Each reimbursement of \$20 or more shall be separately disclosed.

Bank Accounts

Candidate Committees must deposit all contributions they receive in a financial

institution in a separate account with a title that includes the name of the committee.

The financial institution may be any bank that you choose, including those outside Colorado. Please consult your bank and I.R.S. regulations concerning account requirements, which may vary depending on the institution.

Independent expenditure committees must have a dedicated bank account solely for their donations and expenditures

Legal Provisions Related to Expenditures

Definitions	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 2 (8 and 9)
Cash/Coin Expenditures	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 3 (10)
Itemized Expenditures	1-45-108(1)(a)(I), C.R.S.; SOS Rule 10.3
Independent Expenditures	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 5; 1-45-108(2.5), C.R.S.
Reimbursement of Expenditures	1-45-108(1)(e), C.R.S.; Rule 10.11.1
Bank Accounts	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 3(9) and 1-45-107.5(7), C.R.S.

Filing Calendars: Dates and Deadlines

Filing dates for City elections differ from the filing dates for state or county elections as the City's Home Rule Charter (Section 5.5) contains an additional filing deadline 42 days before an election. This date and all other filing dates and reporting periods for every election will be made available in a calendar to be supplied as part of the candidate packet by the City Clerk's Office and shall be posted on the City's web site at www.centennialco.gov/City-Clerk/Elections-information.aspx.

A filing deadline is the date upon which a filing must be *actually received* by the City Clerk's

Office. All reports must be received by 5:00 p.m. of the filing deadline in order to be considered timely. The date of a postmark is not relevant in determining if a filing date has been met.

Amended Reports

Whenever a committee becomes aware of an error or change in past reporting, the committee must amend the report as soon as possible by filing an "Amended Report of Contributions and Expenditures" with the City Clerk as soon as possible and the City Clerk shall post such amended report on the City's web site.

After the Election

Candidate Committees remain open until affirmatively closed by the candidate, registered agent, or designated filing agent. Failure to win the election does not automatically close your Candidate Committee. The candidate or agent must file a termination report reflecting a zero balance to close the committee. A committee must pay all outstanding loans and debts before terminating and the committee must file all required reports on time as long as the committee remains open.

Committees must keep financial records for 180 days following any election in which the committee received contributions and keep LLC affirmations for 1 year. Committees subject to a complaint must maintain records and make them available until after the matter is resolved.

Inactive Candidate Committees *must* terminate, and all funds must be disposed of appropriately, after nine years from the date the former officeholder's term expired or the date of the election at which the candidate was an unsuccessful candidate for office.

Unexpended Campaign Contributions

The law places some restrictions on what a candidate committee may do with unexpended campaign funds.

Committees may use unexpended funds in the following ways:

- Contribute to a political party, up to the limit.
- Contribute to a new committee established by the same candidate for a new office. Limits apply as to how much may be contributed to the new committee.
- Donate to an IRS-recognized charitable organization.
- Return to contributors.
- Retain for use in a later campaign by the same candidate.

If elected to office, you may also use your unexpended campaign funds for voter registration, political issue education (the law prohibits contributions to issue committees), postsecondary educational scholarships, or to defray reasonable and necessary expenses related to your official duties as an elected official (including communicating with your constituents).

If you wish to run for a different office or run again for the same office if you are not term limited, you may transfer funds to a committee in a subsequent election cycle, subject to the following restrictions:

- The candidate committee must designate what amount it retains for general campaign use in the next election cycle and what amount it retains for use as unexpended funds
- Funds retained by a candidate committee for general use in the next election cycle are designated as political party contributions and are thus subject to applicable contribution limits. Any remaining funds left over at the end of the election cycle that exceed the political party contribution limit, if

applicable, must be designated as unexpended funds subject to the restrictions listed above

- You must open a new candidate committee if you run for a different office and terminate the old candidate committee within 10 days of opening the new committee for the new office
- Candidates seeking election to state or local offices may not transfer funds from a federal candidate committee to a Colorado candidate committee.
- Committees may not use unexpended funds for personal purposes

Standalone Candidates

Standalone candidates must file disclosure reports for any reporting period up to and including the election during which expenditures were made. Standalone candidates who fail to win their election cease to be candidates once the election is over.

Relevant Laws and Rules

Unexpended Campaign Funds	1-45-106, C.R.S.; Rule 2.2.4
Subsequent Elections	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 3 (3)(e)

PART TWO: NONCANDIDATE COMMITTEES

Political Committees, Small Donor Committees, Issue Committees, Recall Committees, and Independent Expenditure Committees

REGISTERING YOUR COMMITTEE

Colorado law associates different types of political activity with different types of committees. Prior to raising or spending money, read Article XXVIII of the Colorado Constitution, Title 1 Article 45 of the C.R.S., and the Secretary of State Rules Concerning Campaign and Political Finance to determine committee registration requirements.

The type of committee that you register depends on the activities of your committee. Under most circumstances, it is not possible to “choose” the type of committee that you want to register. If your activities meet the definition a committee listed below, you must register with the City Clerk and follow the laws governing activities for that type of committee.

Filing dates for City elections differ from the filing dates for state or county elections as the City’s Home Rule Charter (Section 5.5) contains an additional filing deadline 42 days before an election. The City imposes monetary penalties for every day a required report is late, including weekends and holidays. See pages 32 through 35 of this Manual concerning Penalties.

TYPES OF COMMITTEES

POLITICAL COMMITTEES

Definition: Any person, other than a natural person, or any group of two or more persons, including natural persons that have accepted or made contributions or expenditures in excess of \$200 to support or oppose the nomination or election of one or more candidates.

Features of Political Committees:

- Political Committees support or oppose candidates for City elective office in Colorado.
- Committees advocating for or against candidates for City elective office must register with the City Clerk.

Depending on the type of activity the committee engages in, a political committee may also need to register and file disclosure reports as an Independent Expenditure Committee (IEC). See the section on IEC’s for more information.

Foreign citizens, foreign governments, and foreign corporations may not register or maintain political committees.

Political Committees may accept contributions from corporations and unions but cannot accept contributions from foreign citizens, foreign corporations, or foreign governments. A political committee may not make contributions to an issue committee or small scale issue committee except to the extent that a contribution is for the purchase of items such as event tickets, merchandise or services (Rule 3.1)

Colorado law treats all Political Committees organized, established, maintained and financed by the same labor organization, corporation, or other group of persons as a single political committee. There is no requirement that a Political Committee segregate contributions received from corporations and labor organizations from those received from natural persons.

- Reporting requirements

A Political Committee related exclusively to municipal candidates must report all contributions received and expenditures to the City Clerk and must file amendments or registration changes within 10 days of the change.

Reports must contain the name and address of the contributor for all contributions of \$20 or more, and the contributor’s employer and occupation

for those totaling \$100 or more if the contributor is a natural person. Contributions under \$20 may be combined and reported as one lump sum in a reporting period as “non-itemized” contributions if those individual contributions have not exceeded \$20 in aggregate in the reporting period.

All contributions from Limited Liability Companies (LLCs) must be itemized and attributed to the individual members of the LLC. The LLC must provide the committee with a written affirmation statement at the time of contribution affirming that the contribution is permitted by law via a form provided by the City Clerk. If the affirmation statement is not present at the time of contribution, the recipient committee has 30 days to obtain the affirmation or return the contribution.

Only the registered agent or designated filing agent may sign and file committee reports.

Filing dates for City Political Committees differ from state committees as the City’s Home Rule Charter (Section 5.5) contains an additional filing deadline 42 days before an election. Please be certain you have the correct filing dates. Filing dates and reporting periods for every election will be made available in a calendar to be supplied as part of the candidate packet by the City Clerk’s Office and shall be posted on the City’s web site at [www.centennialcolorado.com/cityservices/cityclerk/regular election](http://www.centennialcolorado.com/cityservices/cityclerk/regular%20election).

A filing deadline is the date upon which a filing must be *actually received* by the City Clerk’s Office. All reports must be received by 5:00 p.m. of the filing deadline in order to be considered timely. The date of a postmark is not

relevant in determining if a filing date has been met.

- Terminating a Political Committee

In order to close a Political Committee, you must submit a termination report to the City Clerk. The committee must have a zero balance, which means there are no funds on hand, and no outstanding debts or other obligations, including any imposed penalties. Committees may file a termination report at any time. As long as the committee remains open, it must file disclosure reports in every reporting period, even those during which the committee has no activity.

Statute does not limit the use of unexpended campaign funds for Political Committees. Committees may refer to Rule 12.4.2 regarding unexpended campaign funds for issue committees for guidance related to unexpended funds.

- Legal Provisions Applicable to Political Committees

Definition	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 2(12);
Registration and Amendments	1-45-108(3), C.R.S.; SOS Rules 8.1, 12.1
Disclosure Requirements	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 7; 1-45-103.7, 1-45-108, 1-45-109, C.R.S.; SOS Rule 10
Filing Dates	Home Rule Charter Section 5.5. See also official election calendar.
Contribution Amount	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 3; 1-45-

Thresholds Affecting Reporting Requirements	103.7, C.R.S.; Rule 10.17
Major Contributions	1-45-108(2.5), C.R.S.

SMALL DONOR COMMITTEES (SDCs)

Definition: A form of political committee that may only accept contributions from natural persons who are U.S. citizens and each contribute no more than fifty dollars in the aggregate per calendar year.

Corporations and labor organizations may establish SDCs, and their members may contribute. However, corporations and labor organizations themselves cannot contribute to SDCs, and money contributed to an SDC cannot be given back to a corporation or labor organization for general use.

SDCs established by substantially the same group of persons will be treated as a single committee.

Colorado law permits SDCs to make larger contributions to candidates and parties than political committees.

Dues transferred to an SDC from a membership organization (including aggregated dues transfers) are considered pro-rata contributions to the SDC from individual members. The actual transfer itself is not considered a contribution from the membership organization to the SDC. If the pro-rata amount from each individual is \$20 or more (at one time or in the aggregate) in a reporting period, each individual member must be listed as a contributor.

An SDC may not make contributions to an issue committee or small scale issue committee except to the extent that a contribution is for the purchase of items such as event tickets, merchandise or services (Rule 3.1)

- Reporting requirements

An SDC must report all contributions received and expenditures made to the City Clerk and must file amendments or registration changes within 10 days of the change.

Reports must include the name and address of the contributor for all contributions of \$20 or more (either one-time or in the aggregate during a reporting period).

The law prohibits contributions from corporations, unions, and LLCs because they are not “natural persons.”

Only the registered agent or designated filing agent may sign and file committee reports.

Filing dates for City SDCs differ from state small donor committees as the City's Home Rule Charter (Section 5.5) contains an additional filing deadline 42 days before an election. Please be certain you have the correct filing dates. Filing dates and reporting periods for every election will be made available in a calendar to be supplied as part of the candidate packet by the City Clerk's Office and shall be posted on the City's web site at [www.centennialcolorado.com/cityservices/cityclerk/regular election](http://www.centennialcolorado.com/cityservices/cityclerk/regular%20election).

A filing deadline is the date upon which a filing must be *actually received* by the City Clerk's Office. All reports must be received by 5:00 p.m. of the filing deadline in order to be considered timely. The date of a postmark is not relevant in determining if a filing date has been met.

- Terminating a small donor committee

You must submit a termination report to the City Clerk to close an SDC. The SDC must have a zero balance, which means there are no funds on hand, and no outstanding debts or other obligations, including any penalties. As

long as the SDC remains open, it must file disclosure reports *even if it has no activity*.

The termination report may be filed at any time.

Statute does not limit the use of unexpended funds for SDCs. Committees may refer to Rule 12.4.2 regarding unexpended campaign funds for issue committees for guidance related to unexpended funds.

guidance for such committees.)

An organization or group of people who support or oppose an issue in their community should familiarize themselves with the laws concerning issue committees before the group engages in political activity, to ensure compliance with any campaign finance laws that may apply.

You *must* register an Issue Committee if you:

- Are a group of two or more individuals (natural persons) or a business (or both);
- That supports or opposes a ballot issue or ballot question; AND one of the following two criteria has been met:
 - You have accepted or made contributions or expenditures of \$200 or more to support or oppose that ballot issue or ballot question; OR
 - You have printed more than 200 petition sections, or more than 200 petition sections have been accepted.

POLITICAL PARTIES

As City elections are non-partisan, candidates are not nominated by party and the campaign finance laws that apply to political parties for state and county elections are not relevant in Centennial elections. Political parties should contact the Secretary of State's office for guidance on campaign finance compliance.

ISSUE COMMITTEES

Definition: Any person, other than a natural person, or any group of two or more persons, including natural persons, that has:

- A major purpose of supporting or opposing any municipal ballot issue or ballot question, *AND*
- Accepted or made contributions or expenditures in excess of \$200 to support or oppose any ballot issue or ballot question *OR*
 - has printed two hundred or more petition sections. **(Issue committees at the state, county, or special district level, or those active in multiple counties or special districts, are subject to statewide regulation and register with and report to the Secretary of State. This Manual does not encompass**

Foreign citizens, foreign governments, and foreign corporations may not register or maintain an issue committee.

• Registration and Reporting Requirements

For issue committees that support or oppose ballot questions or issues at the municipal level, registration with the City Clerk is required within 10 calendar days of (a) accepting contributions or making expenditures in excess of \$200 to support or oppose any city ballot issue or ballot question, or (b) printing more than 200 petition sections or having more than 200 petition sections accepted.

Filing dates for City elections differ from the filing dates for state or county elections as the City's Home Rule Charter (Section 5.5) contains an additional filing deadline 42 days before an election. This date and all other filing dates and reporting periods for every election will be made available in a calendar to be supplied by the City Clerk's Office and shall be posted on the City's web site at [www.centennialcolorado.com/cityservices/cityclerk/regular election](http://www.centennialcolorado.com/cityservices/cityclerk/regular%20election).

A filing deadline is the date upon which a filing must be *actually received* by the City Clerk's Office. All reports must be received by 5:00 p.m. of the filing deadline in order to be considered timely. The date of a postmark is not relevant in determining if a filing date has been met.

Only the registered agent or designated filing agent may sign and file the committee's reports.

Any amendments or changes to your registration must be filed with the City Clerk within ten days of the change.

Colorado law prohibits contributions made with the expectation that the committee will reimburse all or part of the contribution.

Reports must contain the name and address of the contributor for all contributions of \$20 or more (either one-time contributions or contributions greater than \$20 in aggregate during a reporting period), and the contributor's occupation and employer must be listed for all contributions of \$100 or more if the contributor is a natural person.

An Issue Committee may terminate by filing a termination report, but only if the report indicates a zero balance and no

outstanding obligations. If the committee remains open, it must file disclosure reports *even if it has no activity*.

Issue Committees may return unexpended campaign funds to the contributors or donate them to a charitable organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service.

- Major Contribution Report

Committees must file a Major Contribution report with the Secretary of State within 24 hours of receiving any contribution of \$1,000 or more within 30 days of a City election *in addition to* reporting such contributions on regularly scheduled disclosure reports. In addition to the required reporting to the Secretary of State, a copy of the report also be filed with the City Clerk's office within 24 hours of such contribution.

- Ballot Issues and Ballot Questions

A ballot issue is "a ...local government matter arising under section 20 of Article X of the state constitution," as defined in C.R.S. § 1-1-104(2.3). Essentially, ballot issues are Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) matters.

A ballot question is "a ... local government matter involving a citizen petition or referred measure, other than a ballot issue." C.R.S. § 1-1-104(2.7). Ballot questions are non-TABOR ballot measures.

- Legal Provisions Applicable to Issue Committees:

Definitions	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 2(10); 1-45-103, C.R.S.
Major Purpose	Rule 1.12
Registration and amendments	1-45-108(3), (3.3), and (6),

	C.R.S.; SOS Rules 8.1, and 12.1
Disclosure Requirements	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 7; 1-45-108, 108.3, 1-45-109, C.R.S.; SOS Rule 4
Filing Dates	Home Rule Charter Section 5.5. See also official election calendar.
Major Contributions	1-45-108(2.5), C.R.S.
Unexpended Funds	1-45-106(3), C.R.S.
Ballot Issues and Questions	1-1-104(2.3), 1-1-104(2.7), C.R.S.

accepts or makes contributions or expenditures exceeding \$5,000 during an election cycle.

Within 15 days of exceeding the \$5,000 threshold, a small scale issue committee must notify the City Clerk that it has exceeded the limit. At this time, the City Clerk will assign the committee an initial disclosure report which is due five days from the date the committee notified the City Clerk that it exceeded the \$5,000 threshold. This initial report must disclose any contribution and expenditure activity the committee engaged in between \$0 and \$5,000.

Unlike regular campaign finance disclosure reports, only the name, address, and amount of each contribution and expenditure is required on this initial disclosure report. Following the initial report, the small scale issue committee becomes an issue committee.

SMALL SCALE ISSUE COMMITTEES

Definition: An issue committee that does not accept contributions or make expenditures exceeding \$5,000 during an election cycle for the major purpose of supporting or opposing a ballot issue or ballot question.

The notification given to the City Clerk for exceeding the \$5,000 threshold serves as authorization for the City Clerk to convert the committee to an issue committee. The issue committee will then report on a regular reporting schedule.

Registration and Reporting Requirements

Like issue committees, small scale issue committees supporting or opposing ballot issues or questions at the local municipal level only must register with the City Clerk after accepting or making contributions or expenditures in excess of \$200 to support or oppose any ballot issue or question. Small scale issue committee registration must be completed within 10 days of the date in which the aggregate amount of the committee's contributions or expenditures exceed \$200.

If you believe the contribution and expenditure activity you will engage in will exceed \$5,000, you may wish to bypass registration as a small scale issue committee and register an issue committee. It is not necessary to first register a small scale issue committee and then convert to an issue committee. Once you have registered as an issue committee, you may not convert back to a small scale issue committee.

Foreign citizens, foreign governments, and foreign corporations may not register or maintain a small scale issue committee.

A small scale issue committee may terminate at any time by filing an affirmation with the appropriate filing officer that the committee has no outstanding debts, obligations, or penalties and wishes to terminate.

Once registered, a small scale issue committee is not required to file disclosure reports until the small scale issue committee

Legal provisions applicable to small scale issue committees

Definitions	1-45-103 (16.3), C.R.S.
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Registration and amendments	1-45-108(1.5), C.R.S.; Rule 4.4
Disclosure requirements	1-45-108(1.5), C.R.S.; Rule 4.4
Ballot issues and questions	1-1-104(2.3), 1-1-104(2.7), C.R.S.

the election or by the date that the recall petition is deemed insufficient. The City Clerk will prepare and issue the calendar.

- Legal Provisions Applicable to Recall Committees:

Registration and Reporting	1-45-108(6), C.R.S.; SOS Rule 15
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RECALL COMMITTEES

Definition: An issue committee formed to support or oppose the recall of a City elected officer (Mayor or Councilmember). *Note: Committees authorized by a candidate are still Candidate Committees.*

Because Recall Committees are a type of issue or small scale issue committee, please be sure to read the portions of this Manual applicable to such Committees.

An incumbent subject to recall who wishes to oppose the recall election must form an Issue Committee. Depending on the anticipated level of contribution or expenditure activity, an incumbent may also consider registering a small scale issue committee (see above). *An incumbent may not use their Candidate Committee to oppose the recall.*

Persons supporting or opposing candidates to fill the vacancy created by a successful recall must form a Political Committee.

Any person seeking to fill the vacancy created by a successful recall must form a Candidate Committee if they will accept contributions in support of their election.

A Recall Committee must be registered within ten calendar days of accepting or making contributions or expenditures in excess of \$200 to support or oppose the recall. Recall Committees are subject to the same campaign finance requirements as Issue Committees including itemization, termination, etc.

Filing calendars for committees participating in a recall election are determined by the date of

INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE COMMITTEES

Definition: One or more persons that makes independent expenditures in excess of \$1,000 in an aggregate amount, or that collects in excess of \$1,000 from one or more persons for the purpose of making an independent expenditure.

The requirements applicable to Independent Expenditure Committees apply to *all* persons, groups, businesses, and other entities that meet the definition of Independent Expenditure Committee.

Please see the section of this Manual covering independent expenditures and electioneering communications (page 27) for more information.

- Legal Provisions Applicable to Independent Expenditure Committees:

Definitions	1-45-103(11.5), C.R.S.
Registration and Disclosure Requirements	1-45-107.5, C.R.S.

REGISTERED AGENTS

All committees registered with the City Clerk must have a registered agent. The registered agent must be a natural person and is responsible for maintaining all committee records and filing all reports on time. The City

Clerk will address all correspondence regarding the committee to the agent.

The committee may replace the registered agent upon formal resignation of the agent, but the committee must file an amended registration within 10 calendar days of the change. To resign, a registered agent must file a resignation letter with the City Clerk via certified mail. There must be a registered agent associated with each committee at all times.

• Legal Provisions Applicable to Registered Agents:

Definition	1-45-108(3)(b)
Registration	1-45-108(3), C.R.S.; SOS Rules 2.2.1 and 9
Disclosure requirements	1-45-108, C.R.S.; SOS Rule 10
Filing Dates	Home Rule Charter Section 5.5. See also official election calendar.
Deposits and Record-keeping	SOS Rule 10
Contribution Amount Thresholds Affecting Reporting Requirements	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 3

HOW TO REGISTER

All registration and reporting required by committees subject to campaign finance law is done on forms supplied by and filed with the City Clerk. To register your committee, you will need the following:

- Know which type of committee you will register;
- A committee name (and acronyms you will use);

- A registered agent and such agent's address, phone number and e-mail address;
- The physical and mailing addresses for the committee's principal place of business;
- A description of your committee's purpose (this must include detail, including candidates, ballot measure numbers, or policy positions you will support or oppose); and
- Financial information, including the name of the bank where the committee has (or will have) an account.

Any registration amendments must be promptly reported to the City Clerk's Office within 10 days of the change. Reportable changes include (but are not limited to): name and address changes, a change in the committee's purpose, and changes in the financial institution.

Registration requirements differ for Independent Expenditure Committees. Please see page 27 of this Manual.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES

All committees registered with the City Clerk must report contributions and expenditures (and donations, for Independent Expenditure Committees).

Filing dates for City elections differ from the filing dates for state or county elections as the City's Home Rule Charter (Section 5.5) contains an additional filing deadline 42 days before an election. This date and all other filing dates and reporting periods for every election will be made available in a calendar to be supplied as part of the candidate packet by the City Clerk's Office and shall be posted on the City's web site at [www.centennialcolorado.com/cityservices/cityclerk/regular election](http://www.centennialcolorado.com/cityservices/cityclerk/regular%20election).

A filing deadline is the date upon which a filing must be *actually received* by the City Clerk's Office. All reports must be received by 5:00

p.m. of the filing deadline in order to be considered timely. The date of a postmark is not relevant in determining if a filing date has been met.

Contributions and Donations to Committees

Contributions or donations from natural persons made by check come from the person who signed the check. For contributions or donations made by check, the date the committee deposits the check into their account is the date of receipt.

Please see page 31 of this Manual for information on contributions/donations from joint account holders.

Colorado law prohibits contributions made with the expectation that the committee will reimburse all or part of the contribution.

Depending on the contribution amount, Colorado law requires committees to report certain additional information as required:

- Committees must disclose contributions of less than \$20 on their report although itemization is not required.
- Committees must report and itemize contributions (and donations) of \$20 or more (either one-time contributions or contributions greater than \$20 in aggregate during a reporting period) including non-monetary (in-kind) contributions on disclosure reports. Itemization means listing each contribution individually with the name and address of the contributor.
- Committees receiving contributions (and donations) of \$100 or more must also include the occupation and employer of the contributor, including non-monetary contributions.

Contributors may make contributions using cash, check, money order, credit card, EFT,

etc., but cash coin or crypto currency contributions shall not exceed \$100.

Non-monetary (in-kind) contributions of goods, equipment, supplies or services constitute contributions, and require disclosure and itemization to the same extent as equivalent monetary contributions.

Expenditures by Committees

An expenditure occurs when it is made, when it is obligated, or when a contract is established, whichever occurs first.

No committee (except an Independent Expenditure Committee) may spend more than \$100 in cash or coin, and committees must itemize expenditures of \$20 or more (either one-time expenditures or expenditures greater than \$20 in aggregate during a reporting period).

Third-party expenditures are reported as non-monetary contributions, as are some coordinated expenditures. This does not include reimbursements for expenditures made on behalf of the committee.

Committees must report reimbursements to committee staff and volunteers as expenditures. Reimbursements can take place at any time during the election cycle. Committees must list reimbursements to service providers initially paid for goods or services in addition to listing the person who is being reimbursed.

Independent Expenditure committees are subject to additional disclosure requirements. Please see page 27.

Bank Accounts

Committees must deposit all contributions received in a financial institution in a separate account with a title that includes the committee name.

The financial institution with which you have your committee account may be any bank that

you choose, including those outside Colorado. Please consult your bank and I.R.S. regulations concerning account requirements, which may vary depending on the institution.

An Independent Expenditure Committee must have a dedicated bank account to be used solely for its donations and expenditures.

Legal Provisions Related to Contributions and Expenditures:

Definition	Art. XXVII, Sec. 2
Disclosure requirements	1-45-108, C.R.S.; SOS Rule 10
Filing Dates	Home Rule Charter Section 5.5. See also official election calendar.
Contribution Amount Thresholds Affecting Reporting Requirements	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 3; 1-45-103.7, C.R.S.; Rule 10
Bank Accounts	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 3(9) and 1-45- 107.5(7), C.R.S.
Reimbursements	1-45-108(1)(e), C.R.S.; Rule 10.11.1

**PART THREE:
INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES,
ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATIONS,
AND FUNDRAISING**

**INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES AND
INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE
COMMITTEES**

Laws governing independent expenditures apply only to expenditures made to support or oppose a candidate or candidates. They do not apply to expenditures made to support or oppose ballot measures or ballot issues.

Colorado law defines independent expenditures as expenditures made by individuals, businesses, and other entities—without the support of or coordination with a candidate, candidate committee, or candidate's agent. Independent Expenditure committees differ from Political committees in that Independent Expenditure Committees do no coordinate activity with a candidate or political party.

Expenditures made by a Candidate Committee in support of the candidacy, or those controlled by or coordinated with a candidate or their agent, do not constitute independent expenditures.

No foreign corporations may make independent expenditures in connection with any Colorado election.

An Independent Expenditure Committee must register with the City Clerk within two business days of the time when any person, group, business, or other entity makes independent expenditures totaling more than \$1,000 or accepts donations for independent expenditures in excess of \$1,000 related to any City election. The committee must establish a separate bank account to be used exclusively for independent expenditures.

Independent Expenditure Committees may accept unlimited donations but may not make contributions to candidate committees or coordinate expenditures with candidates.

Independent Expenditure Committees report on the schedule outlined for Political Committees. Independent Expenditure Committees must itemize all expenditures of more than \$20 (either one-time expenditures or expenditures greater than \$20 in aggregate during a reporting period) given for the purpose of making an independent expenditure and must itemize all donations of \$250 or more per year given for the purpose of making an independent expenditure and include the name and address of the donor. Independent Expenditure Committees must also disclose occupation and employer information for donors giving \$250 or more.

Independent Expenditure Committees must file a separate 48 Hour Notice of Independent Expenditure in addition to, not in lieu of, the regular disclosure report within 48 hours of obligating funds for expenditures of more than \$1000 made within thirty days before a City election.

DISCLAIMER STATEMENTS

Independent Expenditures

In addition to other reporting requirements, independent expenditures of more than \$1,000 must contain a disclaimer identifying the person making the expenditure. Broadcast communications must include:

- A statement that “The communication has been paid for by (full name of the persona paying for the communication)”; and
- A statement identifying a natural person who is the registered agent if the person who paid for the independent expenditure is not a natural person.

The statement for broadcast communications must comply with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requirements for size, duration, and placement.

A disclaimer for a non-broadcast independent expenditure communication must be clear, conspicuous, readable, and contain:

- The name of the person making/paying for the independent expenditure; and
- A specific statement that the advertisement or communication is not authorized by any candidate; and
- Printed text no less than 15 percent of the size of the largest font using the in communication (but no less than 8 point font).

These requirements do not apply to bumper stickers, pins, buttons, pens, and similar small items upon which the disclaimer cannot be reasonably printed.

Failure to file independent expenditure reports on or before the required due date will result in a penalty of \$25 per day until the report is filed, including weekends and holidays

Ballot Issue/Question Communications

Any issue committee, small scale issue committee, or other person making an expenditure in excess of or spending more than \$1,000 per calendar year on a communication that is broadcast, mailed, placed on a website, media service, or online forum, or that is otherwise distributed, supporting or opposing a City ballot issue or ballot question must include a disclaimer statement in the communication.

The disclaimer statement must include:

- A statement that “The communication has been paid for by (full name of the person paying for the communication)”;
- A statement identifying a natural person who is the registered agent if the person who paid for the communication is not a natural person

The Federal Communications Commission (F.C.C.) regulates political advertising for television and radio and may require a “Paid for by” statement. In some instances, a newspaper or other publication may require, at their own discretion, the inclusion of a “Paid for by” statement as a condition of publishing the communication.

The F.C.C. regulates pre-recorded telephone calls, or robocalls, that involve state candidates and issues. Such calls must state at the beginning of the message on whose behalf the call is made, and regulations prohibit such calls from being made to certain numbers, including emergency numbers, guest/patient rooms at a hospital, etc.

For more information, visit the F.C.C. website at www.fcc.gov.

Relevant Legal Provisions Related to Independent Expenditures:

Definition	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 2(9); 1-45-103 (11), C.R.S.
Registration and Reporting	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 5; 1-45-107.5, C.R.S.; Rule 5

Electioneering Communications

Electioneering communication

(1) Is any communication broadcasted by television or radio, printed in a newspaper or on a billboard, directly mailed or delivered by hand to personal residences or otherwise distributed that:

- (I) Unambiguously refers to any candidate; and
- (II) Is broadcasted, printed, mailed, delivered, or distributed within sixty days before a City election; and
- (III) Is broadcasted to, printed in a newspaper distributed to, mailed to,

delivered by hand to, or otherwise distributed to an audience that includes members of the electorate for such public office. Communications are considered electioneering if they are subject to no reasonable interpretation other than as an appeal to vote for or against a specific candidate.

All electioneering reports must include the name of the candidate unambiguously referred to in the electioneering communication.

Reports must include the name of the candidate and all expenditures made on electioneering communications and the name and address of contributors giving more than \$250 per year for electioneering.

Any person, including a candidate and/or candidate committee, spending \$1,000 or more per calendar year for an electioneering communication involving a City election and distributed within 30 days before such election is required to report these expenditures to the City Clerk and must include the method of communication in the electioneering report.

Electioneering reports must include occupation and employer of “natural persons” contributing more than \$250 per year.

Please note that many electioneering communications may also meet the definition of an independent expenditure, and therefore may be subject to additional legal requirements pertaining to independent expenditures.

Electioneering reports are due at the same time as committee reports for contributions and expenditures. Filing dates for City elections differ from the filing dates for state or county elections as the City’s Home Rule Charter (Section 5.5) contains an additional filing deadline 42 days before an election. This date and all other filing dates and reporting periods for every election will be made available in a calendar to be supplied as part of the candidate packet by the City Clerk’s Office and shall be posted on the City’s web site at [www.centennialcolorado.com/cityservices/cityclerk/regular election](http://www.centennialcolorado.com/cityservices/cityclerk/regular%20election).

Relevant Legal Provisions Related to Electioneering Communications:

Definition	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 2(7); SOS Rule 11
Reporting	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 6; 1-45-108, C.R.S.; SOS Rule 11.5
Sanctions	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 10 Section 2-6-330, 2-6-340 and 2-6-350 of the Municipal Code

A filing deadline is the date upon which a filing must be *actually received* by the City Clerk’s Office. All reports must be received by 5:00 p.m. of the filing deadline to be considered timely. The date of a postmark is not relevant in determining if a filing date has been met.

Persons making electioneering communications must maintain all financial records for 180 days after the general election. If a complaint is filed against the person making electioneering communications, the person must maintain financial records until final disposition of the complaint and any resulting litigation.

FUNDRAISING

Note: The information contained in this section provides only examples of some types of activity related to fundraising. If you have further questions about fundraising activities, please contact an attorney for legal advice.

Fishbowls and Pass the Hat Events

Traditional fishbowls and pass-the-hat events are permissible provided the committee lists all contributions received of \$20 or more during a reporting period individually on the contribution and expenditure report, including names and addresses of the contributors and employer and occupation for contributions totaling \$100 or more. If an individual contributor gives more than \$20 (either one-time contribution or contributions greater than \$20 in aggregate during a reporting period) during a reporting period, the contributor must be listed individually on the report, regardless of the amount of each contribution. It can be helpful to provide envelopes printed with spaces to enter this information at your fundraising event.

Anonymous contributions of \$20 or more are not permitted under any circumstances. Anonymous contributions are contributions where the identity of the contributor or other required reporting information is unknown. (Rule 10.8) A committee must donate an anonymous contribution of \$20 or more to a charitable organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service or transmit the contribution to the State Treasurer within 30 days after receipt.

If you are required to provide the occupation and employer information for a contribution and fail to do so within 30 days, the contribution must be returned on the 31st day or penalties may result.

Meet and Greet Events

The law treats these events the same whether held in a rented space or someone's private home. Anything of value given to a committee

must be reported, even if it is food brought for attendees to eat while they mingle. The committee should report the food as a contribution at the fair market value.

Cost of Admission to Fundraising Events

Any amount paid for a ticket to a fundraising event in excess of the value of the meal or other amenities provided (which is typically stated) constitutes a contribution to the organization benefitting from the event. For example, if a ticket to an event is \$100 and the cost of the meal is stated to be \$25, the ticket purchaser makes a \$75 contribution to the entity hosting the event.

Silent Auctions

When reporting items donated for silent auctions, committees may choose to:

- Report the estimated fair market value of the item at the time it is received as a nonmonetary in-kind contribution and then report any bid over that amount as a contribution from the purchaser; or
- Wait to report receipt of the item until someone purchases it at an auction and then report the purchase price as the fair market value of the non-monetary, in kind contribution from the donor.

A donated item is not considered a "pledge" and therefore a committee does not have to report it until it is "purchased" at an auction.

Committees that receive an item in a different reporting period from when it is auctioned should estimate and report the fair market value in the reporting period in which the item is received.

Unless the committee decides to count any over-bid as a contribution from the purchaser, all contributions are counted against the person or organization that donated the item according to the fair

market value which is set by the purchase price.

If the committee estimates the fair market value of an item and then someone purchases the item for a different amount, the committee should amend the contribution amount on any previous disclosure reports.

Non-monetary (in-kind) Contributions of Goods or Services

The use of a space (room, building, etc.), telephones, office equipment, printed material, or any other good or service by a committee is considered to be a contribution to the committee from the person who owns the space, office equipment, business providing the service, etc. Such a donation is subject to contribution prohibitions and must be disclosed and itemized to the same extent as equivalent monetary contributions. For example, the law typically prohibits the donation of the use of a ballroom at a corporate-owned hotel (whether donated outright or given for use at a reduced rate) as a corporate contribution with the possible exception if, and only if, the hotel provides free use to other entities in the usual course of its business.

Contributions from a Couple or Joint Account Holders

A contribution cannot come from two people. Therefore, couples and joint account holders should each write their own separate checks and note in the "memo" space which person the contribution is from. If committees receive a contribution or donation from a joint account and the contributors or donors are not specified, the committee may choose to either apportion the entire amount to the member of the joint account who signed the check or apportion the contribution or donation between members of the joint account. If the committee apportions a contribution or donation between joint account holders, the committee must notify each member of the joint account of the apportionment. The apportionment must also comply with individual contribution limits as it

affects reporting requirements. no notation is made, the recipient committee

Online Contributions: PayPal and other Payment Intermediary Services

PayPal or other payment intermediary services may be used to accept campaign contributions. The amount the contributor agrees to contribute is the contribution amount. The committee should report any fees charged by the service provider for the transaction as expenditures.

Candidate Committees Sharing Expenses

Candidate Committees may share expenses for the cost of brochures, offices, office equipment, etc. so long as each committee pays for its proportionate cost of the expense. If one committee pays for the entire cost initially and the other committee reimburses the paying committee within 30 days, then the purchase and reimbursement do not constitute a contribution by one candidate committee to the other. Contributions from one candidate committee to another are prohibited.

PART FOUR: LATE FILINGS

LATE FILING PENALTIES

The City Clerk is required to impose penalties upon candidates or committees for failure to file disclosure reports or for disclosure reports filed past the due date. If the City Clerk knows that a filing was due because the City Clerk becomes aware that a person has become a candidate or a committee has been formed but such person or committee has failed to file a registration, the City Clerk shall notify any person against whom penalties for late filings under this Section accrue within four (4) business days from the date the City Clerk learns that the filing was due. In issuing such notice, the City Clerk will use the e-mail address, phone number or mailing address on file, if any.

A penalty of \$25 per day, including weekends and holidays, will be imposed on a candidate or committee for every day that a report remains outstanding beyond the due date. These \$25/day penalties shall accrue only up to 100 calendar days, or \$2500 for any individual late filing.

WAIVERS AND WAIVER REQUESTS

The City Clerk has the discretion to grant penalty waivers for municipal candidates and committees for failure to timely file or other campaign finance penalties upon a showing of good cause. Waivers require submission of a written request, addressed to the City Clerk, showing good cause why a waiver or reduction in the penalty should be granted.

The City Clerk's office must receive the request **no later than 5 days after the date the notice of the imposed penalty was delivered**. Waiver requests may be submitted to the City Clerk, 13133 E. Arapahoe Road, Centennial, CO 80112.

Waiver requests must state the reason for the delinquency. The request should provide an explanation that includes all relevant factors relating to the delinquency and any mitigating

circumstances, such as measures taken to avoid future delinquencies. Before a request will be considered, the City Clerk's office must have received a written request containing the information required by this paragraph.

The City Clerk will review the request and make a determination in accordance with the guidelines on page 36. The City Clerk may consider any additional factors that establish good cause or may otherwise be relevant to the request for waiver or reduction of campaign finance penalties. In considering a request, the City Clerk may request additional information, including but not limited to financial or other records maintained by the filer. For waiver requests that apply to more than one penalty, the guidelines will be applied separately to each penalty in chronological order using the single request as the basis for each waiver requested.

Legal provisions for penalties:

Late Penalties	Colo. Const. Art. XXVIII, Sec. 10(2)(a); Section 2-6-330 of the Municipal Code
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PART FIVE: THIRD PARTY COMPLAINTS OF VIOLATIONS

Initial Review

COMPLAINTS

Any person who believes that there has been a violation of campaign finance laws and regulations related to any City election (City elective office, ballot measure or ballot issue election) may file a complaint with the City Clerk's Office within 90 calendar days after the complainant knew or should have known by the exercise of reasonable diligence of the alleged violation. The City Clerk shall provide the complaint cover sheet form which must be included. If an incomplete complaint is received, the date on which the originally filed complaint was received is considered the filed date if a complete copy is received within three (3) business days of notification from the City Clerk that the complaint was incomplete. A complaint may be submitted by fax or electronic mail if a signed original is received by the City Clerk no later than three (3) business days thereafter.

The City Clerk will review the complaint and act within 10 business days. This initial review will determine:

- Whether the complaint was timely filed,
- Whether the complainant specifically identified one or more violations of Colorado Constitution Article XXVIII, the Fair Campaign Practices Act, or any rules adopted and promulgated by the City Clerk concerning campaign and political finance, and
- Whether the complainant alleged sufficient facts and/or provided sufficient information to support a legal and factual basis for the complaint.

Within 10 business days of receiving the complaint, the City Clerk must take one or more of the following actions:

COMPLAINTS MUST INCLUDE:

- ❖ The name, address, e-mail address, telephone number and signature of the complainant (if represented by counsel, also counsel's name, address, e-mail address, telephone number and signature);
- ❖ The name and, if known, the telephone number and address of each person alleged to have committed a violation ("respondent"); and
- ❖ The particulars of the violation (Sufficient facts to support a legal and factual basis for the complaint); and
- ❖ Optionally, documentation or other evidence supporting the allegation.

- If the complaint was not timely filed, has not specifically identified one or more violations, or the complainant did not assert facts or provide information sufficient to support the alleged violations, the City Clerk will dismiss the complaint and notify the complainant and respondent of the reasons for dismissal.
- If the complaint alleges one or more curable violations, the City Clerk will notify the respondent(s) and provide an opportunity to cure.
- If the complaint alleges one or more violations, asserts facts or provides information sufficient to support the alleged violations but that may require additional factual finding(s) or legal interpretation, and the asserted violations are not curable, the complaint shall be referred to an

independent hearing officer to hear and determine such complaint.

Curing violations

If the City Clerk determines that a complaint alleges a failure to file or otherwise disclose required information, or other curable violation, the City Clerk will notify the respondent(s) by email, or by mail if email is unavailable, of the curable deficiencies alleged in the complaint and respondents shall have 10 business days from the date the notice is mailed to file a report or an amendment to the relevant report or reports that cures any deficiencies specified in the notice.

Respondent(s) must provide the City Clerk with notice of intent to cure on the form provided by the City Clerk and include a copy of any amendments. The City Clerk may ask the respondent to provide additional information and may grant an extension of time to file a notice of intent to cure in order to respond to such a request.

After the period for cure, the City Clerk will determine, within 5 Business Days, whether the respondent(s) cured the violation(s), and if so, whether the respondent(s) substantially complied or acted in good faith.

If the City Clerk determines that the respondent(s) substantially complied or acted in good faith, the City Clerk will dismiss the complaint and notify the complainant and the respondent.

If the City Clerk determines that the respondent neither substantially complied nor acted in good faith or cured the alleged deficiency, or that additional factual finding or legal interpretations are required, the complaint shall be referred by the City Manager to an independent hearing officer to hear and determine such complaint and the City Clerk will notify the complainant and the respondent of such action.

Hearings

With due regard for the convenience of both parties, an informal hearing shall be scheduled to be held within 15 calendar days of referral of any complaint to a hearing officer. Within 2 business days of the date of referral of the complete complaint to the hearing officer, a notice of the hearing and any applicable rules governing the hearing shall be sent to the complainant and to the respondent, who shall also receive a copy of the entire complaint, including any accompanying documentation.

If the respondent submits a written motion showing good cause therefore, the hearing officer may grant up to 30 additional calendar days to hold the hearing.

Complainants are expected to gather evidence related to the complaint and present that evidence at the hearing as if they were prosecuting a case. The City Attorney's Office cannot offer legal advice or interpret the law and will only advise with regard to the procedures for filing a complaint. At the request of either party, the hearing officer may issue an administrative subpoena requiring the attendance of a witness or party at the hearing. Failure to comply with any such subpoena shall be a violation of the Municipal Code.

Legal Provisions for Complaints:

Complaint Procedure and Sanctions	Art. XXVIII, Sec. 9(2) and 10; Sections 2-6-330, 2-6-340 and 2-6-350 of the Municipal Code
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PENALTIES

Following a hearing, if the hearing officer determines that a violation has occurred, the hearing officer may order, without limitation, sanctions as follows:

- (1) Impose a civil penalty of at least double and up to five times the amount contributed, received or spent in violation of any

contribution prohibition or limitation or in violation of a contribution reporting requirement.

(2) Impose a civil penalty of \$25 per day for each day that a statement or other information required to be filed is not filed by the close of business on the day due.

(3) Order disclosure of the source and amount of any undisclosed contributions or expenditures.

(4) Order the return to the donor of any contribution made which was the subject of the violation.

Unpaid civil penalties may be collected in the similar manner as a Municipal Court judgment, including the use of a private collection agency.

GUIDELINES FOR WAIVER REQUESTS

GUIDELINES FOR CONSIDERING WAIVER REQUESTS Based on SS Guidelines as Reduced to Reflect Reduced City Imposed Penalties (SOS Rule 18.1.2)		
Scenario – applied in numerical order (i.e., if #1 doesn't apply, move to #2)		Result
#1	A waiver is requested and establishes good cause that made timely filing impracticable (For example, -was in the hospital, got in a car accident, was stranded by a blizzard, etc.). The event or events that made timely filing impracticable must occur within a reasonable time of the date on which the report was filed.	Waive penalty in full. A waiver will be granted without consideration of previous delinquencies.
#2	A waiver is requested but does not present circumstances that made timely filing impracticable (For example, forgot, was out of town, electronic calendar crashed), and:	.
	(a) Filer had contributions and/or expenditures during the reporting period. The penalty imposed is \$50 or more	<p>First delinquency in 24 months: The penalty will be reduced to \$25.</p> <p>Second delinquency in 24 months: The penalty will be reduced by 50%.</p> <p>Third (or subsequent) delinquency in 24 months: A reduction in penalty will not be granted.</p> <p>Penalties imposed under this section are capped at the higher of the contributions or expenditures made during the reporting period. If a delinquency is found to be willful, the penalty cap may be increased to two to five times the higher of the contributions or expenditures made during the reporting period.</p> <p>For purposes of this analysis, previous delinquencies exclude those for which a waiver under scenario #1 was granted.</p>
	(b) Filer has no activity (contributions OR expenditures) during the reporting period and the committee balance is zero. The penalty imposed is \$50 or more	The penalty will be reduced to \$25.
	(c) Filer has a fund balance greater than zero and filer has no activity (contributions OR expenditures) during the reporting period. The penalty imposed is \$50 or more	<p>First delinquency in 24 months: The penalty will be reduced to \$25.</p> <p>Second delinquency in 24 months: The penalty will be reduced by 50%, subject to a cap of 10% of the fund balance (but not less than \$50)</p> <p>Third (or subsequent) delinquency in 24 months: The penalty is capped at 10% of the fund balance, and a minimum penalty of \$50 will be imposed.</p> <p>If a delinquency is found to be willful, the penalty cap may be increased to 20% to 50% of the fund balance.</p> <p>For purposes of this analysis, previous delinquencies exclude those for which a waiver under scenario #1 was granted.</p>
	(d) Filer seeks to terminate active status, has a fund balance of \$1,000 or less, and has no activity (contributions OR expenditures) during the reporting period(s) in question.	Penalties are subject to a cap equal to the total amount of the filer's fund balance as of the date on which the delinquent report was filed, if the committee is promptly terminated.
#3	A waiver is requested but submitted more than 30 days after the date of penalty imposition. For purposes of this analysis, a filer has 30 days from the date on which the final notice of penalty imposition is issued following the filing of the delinquent report. Until an outstanding report is filed, penalties shall continue to accrue at a rate of \$25 per day and no request for waiver will be considered.	A request will not be considered unless good cause has been shown for failure to meet the 30-day waiver filing requirement.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS

Amendment 27

Refers to what is now Article XXVIII of the Colorado Constitution, a voter-approved constitutional amendment providing campaign finance laws for the state of Colorado.

Article XXVIII

A voter-approved amendment to the Colorado constitution providing campaign finance laws for the state of Colorado.

Candidate Affidavit

Notarized form filed with the City Clerk to certify one's intent to run for public office.

Committee

A person or group of persons that raises and spends money for the purpose of supporting or opposing candidates running for office or supporting or opposing ballot measures.

Contribution

A contribution is money given to, or received by, a campaign entity such as a candidate or a committee. Non-monetary contributions, such as in-kind donations of goods or services, are also considered contributions.

C.R.S. -- Colorado Revised Statutes

The laws enacted by the Colorado General Assembly.

Electioneering

Any communication broadcast in some form within 60 days of an election, to members of the electorate urging a vote for or against a candidate for public office.

Expenditure

Money spent by a candidate, committee, other political entity, or individual in the case of Independent Expenditures.

FCPA -- Fair Campaign Practices Act

Title 1, Article 45 of the Colorado Revised Statutes.

Fair Market Value

The normal or average price that a good or service would ordinarily command in the marketplace.

FCC -- Federal Communications Commission

Federal agency responsible for oversight of broadcast communications, including television, internet, and radio.

Foreign Citizen

Any natural person who is not a citizen of the United States.

Independent Expenditure

A campaign finance expenditure that is not controlled or coordinated by the candidate that it references.

Independent Expenditure Committee

Person, business, group, or other entity that spends more than \$1,000 on independent expenditures.

Issue Committee

A person or group of persons that raises and spends money in excess of \$200, or prints 200 or more petition sections, to support or oppose ballot measures.

Major Contribution Report

Separate report that must be filed by the recipient of any contribution of \$1,000 or more, naming the contributor and his or her address, occupation, and employer.

P.C. -- Political Committee

A person or group of people that raises and spends money (more than \$200) to support or oppose the nomination or election of one or more candidates.

Political Party

A group of registered electors that nominates candidates for the general election ballot, whether by petition or by assembly.

Recall Committee

A recall committee is an issue committee established for the purpose of recalling an elected official.

Registered Agent

The agent authorized to act on behalf of a committee. Only the agent (and, in the cases of Candidate Committees, the candidate) may file committee reports and engage in other activities related to the control of a committee. The agent is also the person responsible for penalties and responding to complaints lodged against the committee.

Report of Contributions and Expenditures

Report outlining all of the contributions received, and expenditures made by, a candidate, committee, or other entity governed by campaign and political finance laws. Required by Colorado law. Independent expenditure committees file a similar report called a report of donations and expenditures.

Rules -- Rules Concerning Campaign and Political Finance

These are legally-binding regulations promulgated by the Colorado Secretary of State that govern campaign and political finance activities in Colorado.

SOS – Secretary of State**SDC -- Small Donor Committee**

Political committee that accepts contributions of \$50 or less from natural persons only.

SSIC - Small Scale Issue Committee

A person or group of persons that has a major purpose of supporting or opposing any ballot issue or ballot questions and raises or spends money in excess of \$200 but less than \$5,000.

TABOR- Taxpayer's Bill of Rights

Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution